

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15

COME-00 BIB-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FMC-02 SAL-01 DLOS-06

OES-06 /130 W

----- 114303

O R 131030Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MADRAS

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3528

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 13

UNCLAS MADRAS 1450

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, IN

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, PRESS STORY ON SEALING
OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ON NORTH KOREAN
SHIP IN COLOMBO HARBOR

REF: COLOMBO 2936

FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE ENTITLED
"TRANSMITTERS ON N. KOREAN SHIP SEALED" APPEARING ON
THE FRONT PAGE OF THE HINDU OF AUGUST 11, AS REQUESTED
IN REFTTEL:

QUOTE

THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED THE SEALING OFF
OF THE POWERFUL TRANSMITTERS ON BOARD THE NORTH
KOREAN LINER BERTHED IN COLOMBO HARBOUR, ACCORDING TO
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INFORMED SOURCES.

THE SHIP HAD BROUGHT A BIG CONTINGENT OF NORTH KOREAN
DELEGATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT.

THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT HAD REASONS TO SUSPECT THAT THE
POWER TRANSMITTERS ON BOARD THE NORTH KOREAN SHIP WERE
USED TO INTERCEPT INCOMING AND OUTGOING TELECOMMUNICATION
MESSAGES. THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THIS ACTION AS IT FELT SUCH
INTERCEPTIONS COULD DO A GREAT DEAL OF HARM TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE ISLAND.

IN 1971 WHEN INSURGENTS WERE ACTIVE, THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT
WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY
AND ORDERED ITS DIPLOMATIC STAFF TO CLOSE DOWN THE EMBASSY
AND LEAVE. AFTER THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO EMBASSY OF THAT
COUNTRY IN COLOMBO AND ONLY A MISSION IN DELHI HAS BEEN
LOOKING AFTER THE NORTH KOREAN INTERESTS IN THE ISLAND.
UNQUOTE.
MCCASKILL

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